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URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1970



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1970.

The population of the town fell from 25,830 in 1969 to 25,390 in 1970. There was an increase in the adjusted birth rate from 16.7 to 18.9, compared with the national figure of 16.0. Fifteen infants died before reaching the age of one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 32 compared with the national rate of 18. There were 6 stillbirths, in comparison with 3 in the previous year, giving a higher stillbirth rate of 13, which was equivalent to the national figure.

The adjusted death rate increased from 15.4 in 1969 to 16.5 in 1970 - the national rate was 11.7. There was an increase in the number of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation - 41.22% of the total deaths compared with 38.12 in the previous year, and a marked decrease in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms - 16.43% of the total deaths in comparison with 22.28 in 1969.

The only disease which occurred in significant numbers in Ashington during 1970 was measles. One case was notified in January, then followed a sharp rise in the number of notifications received between February and June to 294 in all. Cases continued to occur sporadically during the remaining months of the year. Measles vaccine, which had been in very short supply for over a year due to the withdrawal of supplies by one firm, again became available, in May 1970 and the vaccination campaign against this disease was recommenced. The satisfactory effect of this, it is hoped, will be seen in the future. Six hundred and seventy-nine children were vaccinated against measles in the whole of the central area of Northumberland during the year under review.

Cases of infective hepatitis, which was present in Ashington in 1969, continued to be notified throughout 1970. In the spring a letter was sent to the headteachers of all the schools giving a brief account of the disease and stressing the extreme importance of a high standard of personal hygiene in the prevention of its spread. Certainly, fewer cases appeared to be notified, following this procedure.

Four cases of food poisoning occurred during 1970, but in none was the source of infection discovered, owing to the delay in diagnosis and notification of the disease. The first case was caused by *Salmonella brandenburg*; the second and third cases were husband and wife, who took ill on return home from holiday - *Salmonella anatum* was isolated from their stools; the fourth case was a ten year old girl, who was admitted to hospital suffering from acute abdominal pain - *Salmonella dublin* was isolated from her stools.

In September, vaccination against german measles was offered to all 13 year old girls in the area, to ensure protection against this disease because of the known association of certain foetal abnormalities following an attack of german measles during pregnancy. A very good response was obtained and approximately 265 consent forms were returned, but the vaccine had not become available and vaccinations could not be carried out during the year under review.

For the second year in succession, it is gratifying to be able to report that no new case of tuberculosis was notified in Ashington and there were no deaths from this disease, but vigilance must be maintained - the preventive work must continue unceasingly, with the vaccination of susceptible school children and the follow-up of contacts of actual cases of the disease.

My thanks are due to the Housing Officer for her help and willing co-operation during the year. One hundred and thirty-four cases were investigated for rehousing on medical grounds, and many of the cases were given accommodation suitable to their needs. This was in itself an important Public Health measure.

Once again, I should like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Hay, The Public Health Inspectors and other Council Officials for the help and co-operation which they extended to me during the year, and for the continued interest and support of members of the Council.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Ashington.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee - Councillor J.W.C. Greener

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., D.Hy., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	S. NUSK M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector	S. GREEN M.A.P.H.I.
Pupil Public Health Inspector	I.L. RICHARDSON
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Station Villa, Ashington.
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Mrs. A. Middlemiss
Telephone	Ashington 2911

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population Mid 1970.....	25,390
Rateable Value	£821,946
One Penny Rate Produces	£7,820
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970)	9,332
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority in district	2,838

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	441	220	221
Illegitimate	22	16	6
	<u>463</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>227</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population18.2
 (Comparability Factor 1.04) Adjusted Birth Rate18.9 (16.0)
 Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate1.18
 Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births 5 (8)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	-	6
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .....13 (13)			

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
359	192	167

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 14.1
 Comparability Factor 1.17 Adjusted Death Rate 16.5 (11.7)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion NIL
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births NIL
 Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate 1.41

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	15	7	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births 32 (18)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	10	5	5

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	2	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000
 live births)..... 22 (12)
 Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) 11 (11)
 Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per
 1,000 live and still births) 23 (23)

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS					65- 75 years & over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasms, Except Cervix Uteri, etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasms, Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasms, Colon	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasms, Intestine	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19 (5)	Malignant Neoplasms, Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasms, Lung, Bronchus	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	4
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasms, Breast	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(1)	Other Endocrine Etc., Diseases	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B23	Anaemias	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

		Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 years & over
	Sex											
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BE48	All Other Accidents	7	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1
	M	7	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BE50	All Other External Causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	192	5	2	1	1	4	4	16	35	56	67
	F	167	5	3	-	1	-	6	10	27	40	75

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON.

CAUSES	Total Number	Total Number	% of Total deaths	% of Total deaths
	1969	1970	1969	1970
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	130	148	38.12	41.22
Malignant Neoplasms	76	59	22.28	16.43
Cerebrovascular Disease	48	44	14.07	12.25
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	42	46	12.3	12.8
TOTAL	296	297	86.77	82.70

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year (taken from the monthly figures dupplied by the Registrar of Births and Deaths).

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-11 months	TOTAL UNDER 1 YEAR
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
Congenital Abnormality	-	-	2	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
E. Coli Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	3	1	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
TOTAL	3	1	2	3	-	9	4	1	-	-	14

STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Crude Death Rate Per 1,000 pop.	Infant Deaths Under 1 yr.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1906	19,200	37.5	16.35	136	188.6
1916	25,974	27.73	15	109	151.38
1926	31,810	23.22	11.90	81	107.9
1936	30,020	17.52	10.95	41	77.94
1946	28,460	21.5	10.7	30	49.9
1956	28,360	16.61	11.6	17	26.09
1957	28,370	15.83	9.799	15	33.41
1958	28,340	15.49	10.76	11	24.83
1959	28,210	16.16	10.17	12	26.32
1960	28,150	16.23	11.15	15	30.93
1961	27,380	15.70	11.47	9	20.98
1962	27,170	16.636	12.44	8	17.69
1963	26,920	16.86	11.6	7	15.42
1964	26,600	16.43	10.86	14	32.04
1965	26,480	15.52	13.22	9	21.89
1966	26,360	14.68	11.49	5	12.92
1967	26,320	16.6	11.2	7	15.9
1968	26,080	17	12.9	6	14.0
1969	25,830	16.1	13.2	9	22
1970	25,390	18.2	14.1	15	32

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	TOTAL
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	1	3	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	15
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	16	78	108	110	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	314
TOTAL	16	78	109	113	8	5	5	-	-	-	-	333

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY DURING 1970.

DISEASE	PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					Others under 16 years	TOTAL
	YEAR OF BIRTH						
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66		
Diphtheria	5	661	149	8	15	32	870
Whooping Cough	5	656	145	7	9	-	822
Tetanus	5	662	149	8	16	87	927
Polio-me-y-litis	7	657	144	12	20	57	897
Measles	2	150	252	129	127	19	679
RE-INFORCING DOSES							
Diphtheria	-	-	28	82	1017	33	1160
Whooping Cough	-	-	23	66	64	1	154
Tetanus	1	1	28	83	1030	641	1784
Polio-my-elitis	-	-	28	82	1014	711	1835
Smallpox	<u>No. of children vaccinated</u>					<u>No. revaccinated</u>	
<u>Age at date of vaccination.</u>							
Under 1 year	10			-			
1 year	62			-			
2 - 4 years	84			6			
5 - 15 years	72			30			
TOTAL			228			36	

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1970.

No new cases were notified. No deaths occurred from tuberculosis in 1970.

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington. NIL

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in England & Wales. 0.022 per 1,000 pop.

Death rate from other forms of tuberculosis in Ashington. NIL.

Death rate from other forms of tuberculosis in England and Wales. 0.015 per 1,000 pop.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The registrar-General's Figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below:-

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death rate in Ashington 0.86 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales 0.610 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington..... 1.45 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales 1.740 per 1,000 pop.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 2.14 per 1,000 pop.
Death rate in England and Wales 2.350 per 1,000 pop.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and the following clinics, covering a wide field, are held in the Centre at South View:-

- Infant Welfare Sessions
- Relaxation & Mothercraft sessions for expectant mothers
- Mothers' Clubs
- Speech Therapy & Ophthalmic Clinics
- Dental Sessions
- Handicraft Classes for the physically handicapped
- Chiropody Sessions
- Family Planning sessions
- Birthday Clinics
- Pre-school playgroups
- Citizens' 'Advice Bureau'

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in WestView, where 15 drivers and 1 station officer are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee.

This committee continued to hold its meetings and they were well attended during 1970. Pupils from the senior schools in the town gave valuable help in the work with the elderly citizens and this was greatly appreciated.

The work at the Day Centre continued to run smoothly and the number of patients attending was increased from 12 to 24. Three outings were held during the summer, and the patients were given a Christmas Dinner and party on 23rd December. A library was operated during the year and a Savings Group was formed - this proved to be a boon to the house-bound, who were able to save to pay electricity bills, television license fees etc. As a result of the rehabilitation of these patients, a marked improvement in their mental and physical condition could be seen.

Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

This organisation continued its valuable work for the community in Ashington during 1970. The number of meals served to house-bound elderly citizens increased from 5,044 in 1969 to 5,148 in 1970, and the number of meals served in luncheon clubs increased from 4,761 to 5,952. Voluntary helpers are still urgently required for this service.

Ashington Home Safety Committee.

This small, enthusiastic committee, financed by Ashington Urban District Council and the Central Area Health Sub-Committee of Northumberland County Council, continued its work during the year in an effort to reduce the number of home accidents in the town. Various projects were carried out, including a collection of unused medicines, in which over 4,000 tablets were collected in one week and these were destroyed at Ashington Hospital.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended 31st December, 1970

	No. of inspections during year	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	Defects remedied under Improvement Grant procedure.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing</u>								
Structural Defects	)	461	58	46	354	49	33	-
Defective Food Store)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness	879)	137	19	24	117	1	1	-
Overcrowding)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Water Supply</u>								
Insufficient	96)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	8	8	7	-	-	-	-
<u>Drainage</u>								
Insufficient	113)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	70	22	13	38	10	7	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>								
Insufficient	22)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	)	16	13	10	-	3	3	-
<u>General</u>								
Food premises	392	114	114	92	-	-	-	-
Dairies	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses	483	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	47	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	12	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	53	7	7	7	-	1	-	-
Clean Air Acts	86	7	-	6	-	-	-	-
Civic Amenities Act	103	41	-	40	-	1	1	-
Noise Nuisances	16	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection and disposal.	859	9	9	9	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces	38	6	-	5	-	-	-	-
Offices and Shops	119	69	69	54	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control & Disinfestation	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	3,708	953	323	319	509	65	45	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

General

The abatement of nuisance was again achieved almost entirely by informal action, and it was found necessary to serve only five Statutory Notices during the year.

Inspections were carried out in connection with all Improvement Grant applications and necessary repairs were carried out before the grants were approved. These repairs have been included in the tables.

A total of 191 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 32 were Standard Grants and 159 Discretionary Grants.

Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2,724, while the total number of Standard Grants now given is 183 and the facilities provided by the 32 grants given during 1970 and detailed in the Tabular Statement of Housing.

No Improvement Areas were declared under the Housing Act 1964, as systematic area improvement is still being carried out by the National Coal Board in co-operation with the Council. No representations by tenants for house improvement have been made under the Act.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act 1957, were made during the year.

The table below summarises the notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage	11	10
Defective W.C. basins	5	5
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes	13	12
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply.	2	2
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply.	4	4
Defective or missing ashbins	-	-
Defective roofs	42	32
Damp walls	146	143
Defective spouts	42	34
Defective wallplaster	43	42
Defective ceilings	179	179
Defective doors, windows and floors	131	117
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers ..	9	9
Defective chimney flues	19	19
Defective paving and yard surfaces	20	18
Defective food store	-	-
Offensive accumulations	5	4
Other defects	28	20

Water Supply

The water supply to the area is provided by Tynemouth Corporation from Fontburn and Tosson to Hebron Reservoir, and by gravity main to Ashington, with an additional supply provided by the Coquet Water Board.

The system was further extended, partly to serve the Alcan smelter complex, and partly to improve the general distribution to the area.

Fifty two water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these, six samples showed coliform bacilli. All of these came from the storage tank at Bothal Village late in the year, and the tank was again by-passed by a temporary direct connection to the mains. The owners were once more considering making a permanent direct connection.

Sewerage

An internal examination by television was made of the foul water system running towards the screening chamber because of evidence of damage due to mining subsidence. This showed that one length required to be re-laid, which would be carried out during 1971.

With regard to sewage disposal in the Lintonville area, some improvement is to be brought about by laying a sewer for part of its length, and discharging into a tank which will be emptied periodically.

Swimming Baths

The Swimming baths belong to the Ashington Miners' Welfare Institute, but are available to the general public as well as to Institute Members, and are open all the year round.

The water used is from the main water supply and is treated by continuous chlorination and filtration.

Nine bacteriological samples of the baths were taken during the year, and all samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington and copies of the reports are made available to this Department.

Schools

There are 13 Primary Schools in the district (7 Junior and 6 Infant) 6 Secondary Schools, a Grammar School, Technical College, Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped Children.

Since representations were made to the County Education Committee during 1967, on the condition of the school toilets, a steady programme of improvement and renewal of sanitary and washing facilities has been carried out.

Cinemas and Public Buildings

Inspection of such buildings was carried out as far as possible during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution

Because of predictions of a shortage of solid smokeless fuel, and the rising cost of the fuel, the installation of room heaters in Council houses was abandoned on Phase III of Lane End, in favour of fan assisted open fires with high output back boilers.

While these are approved appliances, in that they are capable of burning smokeless fuel, it can only be regarded as a retrograde step in the already slow and devious progress towards clean air.

Cont/

Atmospheric Pollution (Cont'd.)

It is surely high time we faced up squarely to the fact that coal burning in domestic Grates is wasteful, and injurious to health and should have no place in a modern technological society.

From November onwards, the Council began the joint operation with Alcan Ltd., of monitoring equipment, so that several months of measurement can be recorded before the Smelter plant begins to operate.

Fouling of Footways by Dogs

Complaints continue to be received, of dogs fouling paths and verges, and grassed areas, particularly on open plan estates.

While it is an offence to allow a dog to foul the footway of a street or public place, no complainant has yet been prepared to identify a particular dog or dog owner.

The prevalent practice of allowing dogs to stray at large, is anti-social in the extreme, causing fear to children, damage to property, hazards on the roads, and the possible spread of infection to children, and will be difficult to control without the full co-operation of the public.

Rodent Control

Again, relatively few complaints were received, and even the usual seasonal movement of rodents towards the town at the year-end, was less in evidence, probably because of the mild winter. The sewers were test baited, and one point was poison baited, resulting in the elimination of a small infestation.

We again carried out surveys of areas likely to harbour rats, resulting in the early treatment and elimination of many infestations. No infestation reached major proportions.

The following table summarises the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	11,469	25
Total number of properties inspected following notification	113	-
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	50 35	- -
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	374	25
Number infested by (1) Rats (2) Mice	8 -	1 -

Disinfestation

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Clover Mite	35	2
Beetles	16	14
Bugs	2	1
Harvest Moon Spiders	6	-
Woodworm	-	1
Silver Fish	-	1
Snails	-	2
Flies	2	-
Earwigs	5	3
Wasps	1	1
Fleas	-	1

No charge is made for the treatment of Council houses, though private occupiers pay for the Disinfestor's time and for the insecticide used.

There was an increase in complaints of clover mite in the open plan estates such as Broomlee, Alexandra Road, West End and Lane End.

Treatment is expensive and time consuming, and only temporarily successful, and it would be much better to maintain a barrier of concrete or rough turned earth between the house and the grass on these estates.

No complaints of mosquito bites were received during the year, and though likely breeding grounds were examined, no larvae were found.

Pet Animals Act

One licence to sell Pet Animals was granted to a stall holder in the closed market.

Riding Establishments Act 1964

There is one riding establishment in the area, and following the submission of the Veterinary Surgeon's report, the licence was renewed for a further twelve months.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection was carried out as usual, with few complaints or problems, until September, when the incentive scheme began, incorporating a full twice weekly collection. After a stormy beginning, the crews settled down, and by December, four of the five teams were finishing their revised schedules in good time each week, while the trade collection was working on Saturday mornings. A slight revision of schedules was to be carried out in the new year to balance the work loads.

Overtime was being worked to make collections of bulk refuse. During the year, there were 584 requests for the removal of items such as furniture, cookers, packaged garden refuse, etc., all of which were collected free of charge.

A fair amount of time was spent in tracing owners of abandoned vehicles and procuring their removal.

The refuse pulverising plant continued to operate fairly successfully, though there were some break-downs, which is almost inevitable where so much machinery is involved.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (Cont'd.)

The expected saving in tipping ground, due to the compaction of the pulverised refuse, exceeded our expectations and the nuisance of windblown paper and tip fires have been almost entirely eliminated. There are of course, some problems still to solve, and a good deal of experiment will be necessary in order to gain the greatest possible benefit from the treatment.

Almost 8 acres of land, tipped on since 1965, has been restored, and was handed back for agricultural purposes during the year.

859 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with refuse collection and disposal.

Statistics and costs for the year 1969-1970 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics

Total refuse collected	9,960 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed	7%
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	21.5 cwts.
No. of premises from which refuse is collected.	9,949
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly.	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point	2.5 miles
Trade Refuse - Weight	1,148 tons
- Income	£695

COSTS

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Gross Expenditure	£31,341	£10,975	£42,316
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	£ 2.00	£ 0.15	£ 2.15
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	£ 1.12	£ 0.28	£ 1.40
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton.	£ 3.09	£ 1.09	£ 4.18
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£1,213	£427	£1,640
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£3,094	£1,090	£4,184

Refuse Disposal Vehicles and Staff

<u>Vehicle Reg.</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>First Registered</u>
PTY.988	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	1.10.59.
WTY.163	" " "	" " "	7.9.62.
DNL.685C	" " "	" " "	4.1.65.
KNL.155E	" " "	" " "	6.1.67.
MJR.890F	" " "	Pakamatic	1.8.67.
UTY.767H	" " "	"	22.5.70.
VNL.851H	Austin	6 cwt. van	3.7.70.
WTY.998J	Ford	5000 Tractor/Dozer	Purchased December 1970.

Staff consists of:-

1 Foreman, 5 Drivers, 2 Plant operators, 20 Binlifters. In addition, one man filled in for absent binlifters and worked for the Engineer and Surveyor when we had all men present, which was very rarely the case.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 81 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	4	1	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A.	67	43	8	-
3. Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises).	10	4	-	-
TOTAL:	81	48	8	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	1	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	8	8	1	-	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961 (Cont'd.)

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August 1st required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Artificial Flowers	49	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing Apparel	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	50	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Although nine premises were registered during the year, there was an increase of only two in the total number of registered premises. This was due to the seven premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 310 premises registered under the Act, 27 received one or more general inspections during the year.

119 visits and inspections under the Act were carried out for various purposes.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL		INSPECTIONS	
Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year
Offices	-	65	4
Retail Shops	8	229	18
Wholesome Shops & warehouses	-	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public - canteens	1	8	3
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
TOTAL:	9	310	27

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	859
Retail Shops	1173
Wholesale departments, warehouses	28
Catering establishments open to the public	73
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage Depots	19
TOTAL:	2154
Total Males	907
Total Females	1247

No applications for exemption in respect of temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

One exemption from the first aid provision is in force in view of the Medical Centre which is available to the employees concerned.

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions Found
4	Cleanliness -
5	Overcrowding -
6	Temperature -
7	Ventilation -
8	Lighting 10
9	Sanitary Conveniences 11
10	Washing Facilities -
11	Supply of Drinking Water -
12	Clothing Accommodation -
13	Sitting Facilities -
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) -
15	Eating Facilities -
16	Floors, passages and stairs 19
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery 2
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
23	Prohibition of heavy work -
24	First Aid - General Provisions 8
	Other Matters 12
TOTAL:	62

6 accidents were notified during the year, details of these were submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity in the quarterly returns.

Details of accidents notified were as follows:-

Type of Premises	Nature of Accident
1. Retail Shop	Laceration of right leg caused by defective refrigerator grill.
2. Retail Shop	Dropped glass shelf on toe while removing from supporting bracket, causing fracture.
3. Retail Shop	Injured back while lifting goods.
4. Retail Shop	While carrying goods, bumped right elbow on door, chipping a bone.
5. Retail Shop	Strained back while lifting goods.
6. Office	Fell while closing window, injuring elbow.

Formal investigation is only required if the accident was of a serious nature, or it appears that there are unusual circumstances, or the possibility of safety regulations having been broken. In fact, we visit the premises of every accident notification, if only to impress the management that notification is not merely a formality, but that the purpose is to find means to prevent accidents.

This policy appears to have born fruit, as accident notifications have decreased, particularly those which were prevalent in the beginning, resulting from assistants larking about and careless actions.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1970

Houses completed during the year:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a) By Local Authority | - |
| b) By any other Housing Authority | - |
| c) By Private Persons | 1 |

NOTE: Houses completed by this Council in Newbiggin Urban District are not included in the above total.

Closing and Demolition

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas | - |
| 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas | 4 |
| 3. Houses closed, not demolished | - |
| 4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above. | - |

Repairs

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts

- | | |
|--|----|
| 5. By informal action | 43 |
| 6. By owners, following statutory notice | 1 |
| 7. By Local Authority in default of owners | - |
| 8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction. | - |

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1970 'Cont'd.'

Houses Patched

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation. -

Clearance Programme

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year. -

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A) Discretionary Grants

No. of Separate
Houses

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Applications submitted to Local Authority | 159 |
| 2. Applications rejected | - |
| 3. Applications approved | 159 |
| 4. Approximate average grant approved per house | 2429 |
| 5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme. | 2724 |
- (30 houses improved by local authority under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1969, included in above.)

B) Standard Grants

During the Year	Total to Date
--------------------	------------------

- | | | |
|--|----|-----|
| 1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made | 32 | 183 |
| 2. Number of houses so provided with:- | | |
| (a) Bath or shower. | 2 | 18 |
| (b) Wash hand basin. | 10 | 36 |
| (c) Hot water supply. | 5 | 31 |
| (d) Water Closet. | 31 | 174 |
| (e) Sink | 5 | 6 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice Cream

Seven premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice cream though in only six of these, was ice cream manufactured during the year.

They were all inspected and were found to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1959, and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

39 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

The analysis of results is as follows:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft Ice Cream	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	25	3	2	7

Milk Supply

Three premises were registered as dairies and 63 persons as milk dealers. Since 1st January 1961, all milk licences have been issued by Northumberland County Council.

Cont/

Milk Supply (Cont'd.)

The County Health Department is also responsible for the taking of milk samples. 33 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and three samples failed to pass the tests.

There is one Producer Retailer in the district, and four samples of milk were taken for the Brucella Abortus Ring Test.

These were all reported to be negative.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

The number of food premises by type, together with an analysis of washing equipment fitted is as follows:-

Trade	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash hand basins).	Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (Sinks etc.)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Confectionery	17	17	10	10
Grocers & General	81	81	81	80
Butchers	22	22	22	22
Greengrocery	11	11	11	11
Bakery	12	12	12	12
Ice Cream Parlours	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	3	3	3	3
Fried Fish	14	14	14	14
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	23	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	12	12	12	12
TOTAL:	215	215	208	207

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

105 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 25 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc. and of these, two premises are registered for both purposes.

392 visits were made to food premises, and in addition food premises being inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were at the same time, dealt with under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food Hygiene standards were again found to be quite high, contraventions being generally of a minor nature, though it was not possible to maintain the number of inspections carried out in recent years.

Food Complaints

Eight food complaints were received and investigated during the year as follows:-

<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Prosecuted</u>	<u>Plea</u>	<u>Result</u>
1. Rubber plug in bread	Yes	Guilty	Fined £20 and costs.
2. Metal in Stuffed Pork Roll	Yes		Fined £10
3. Mouldy Polony	Yes	Guilty	Fined £20
4. Mouldy Pork Sausage			
5. Insect in Mince Pie			
6. Mould in Chopped Pork			
7. Drawing pin in hamburger and chip meal.			

In cases four to seven, the Clerk did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proceedings being taken, and the complaints were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and other persons concerned.

In the eighth case, not listed above, meat served in a canteen meal was alleged to be bad. It appeared to us to be perfectly sound, and the Public Health Laboratory confirmed this.

Food and Drugs

Regular sampling of milk and other foods is carried out in the district by the Northumberland County Council.

Details of this work have been kindly provided by Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 101 milk samples and 81 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All samples were found to be genuine.

Meat and Other Foods

The four slaughterhouses continued to operate and licence renewals during the year were as follows:-

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Licence Expires</u>
Hack Wansbeck Terrace	A.I.C.S.	31st July, 1971.
Back Lintonville Terrace	W.J. Burgess & Sons Ltd.	31st July, 1971.
Wellhead Terrace	J. Wheatley	31st July, 1971.
Back 197 Alexandra Road	T. Davidson	31st July, 1971.

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All four slaughterhouses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the statutory procedure laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulation 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

Lungs	Pleurisy 2; Parasites 1; Abscesses 2.
Livers	Parasites 4; Abscesses 1.
Mutton	Bruising 29 lbs. Pleurisy 3 lbs.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed and Inspected	1074	2	-	2480	1156
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	41	1	-	11	88
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticerci.	3.82	50	-	0.44	7.61
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised & totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1. Meat at slaughterhouses	-	9	48
2. Meat at retail shops	-	-	-
3. Cooked Meat and meat products	-	-	-
4. Canned Meats	-	2	55
5. Other Canned Foods	-	4	52
6. Fish (Fresh)	-	-	-
7. Fruit and Vegetables (Fresh)	-	9	56
8. Frozen Foods	-	2	76
9. Other Foods	-	-	22
TOTAL:	1	8	85

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character.
